SI. No.	Year of meeting of IBWL
5.	1963
6.	1965
7.	1969
8.	1970
9.	1972
10.	1974
11.	1975
12.	1976
13.	1978
14.	1981
15.	1982
16.	1983
17.	1985
18.	1988
19.	1997
20.	1997
21.	2002

Man-made forests in Vizag Steel Plant

5443. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister oi ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "Vizag Steel Plant a green's delight" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 19th April, 2002.

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government would allocate funds and encourage the prowth of similar man-made forests which, besides creating pollution-free environment, would also provide natural habitat for the wildlife, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The afforestation work done by the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has been nationally recognized and the Plant was awarded the Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Award in 1991.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests provides funds for afforestation programmes within degraded forests and lands adjoining forest areas.

Processing infrastructure for agro products

5444. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major part of agro-products go waste due to non-availability of sufficient storage and processing infrastructures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of measures taken by Government to provide infrastructure facilities for fruits and vegetable growers;

(d) whether any time-bound programme has been worked out; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYANA YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the Report of Sub Group on Post harvest Management, Marketing and Export of the working group of Planning Commission on Horticulture for 10th Plan, the wastage of fruits and vegetables is ranging from 8%—37% at various stages of handling after harvesting, due to inadequate post-harvest infrastructure including transport and storage.

(c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a scheme, namely, 'Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Constructjon/Expansbn/ Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce' through the National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous body of this Department. Under the scheme financial assistance in the form of back-ended capital investment subsidy is provided @25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakhs per project and @ 33.33% of the project cost upto a. ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakhs per project for North-Eastern States. The NHB has provided subsidy of Rs. 181.11 crores for creation of additional storage capacity of 24.12 lakhs MT for 521 cold storages during the years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002. Besides a total of 224 Onion Storages, as on 31.3.2002, have been created with the assistance of NABARD, NCDC, NHRDF, and NAFED under their various schemes including the subsidy scheme of NHB.